

ATTACHMENT A
“Marked-Up” Amendments

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract (pg. 22, lines 5-20) as follows:

A deformable cap for a computer pointing device is [presented. The deformable cap] provided that may be particularly useful for miniature joystick-type pointing devices such as the TrackPoint™ and ScrollPoint™ devices manufactured by the IBM corporation of Armonk, NY. When an operator places a fingertip on the cap, the cap deforms thereby advantageously increasing the surface area of contact between the cap and the fingertip. All embodiments of the cap are placed on an upper portion of a control stick of the pointing device. A first embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support, a disc, a plurality of wire supports, and an elastic cover that overlays the disc and wire supports. An inner surface of the cover may be scored to ensure repeatable deformation of the cap. A spring may be attached to a lower surface of the disc to assist the cap in regaining its original shape once the operator's fingertip is removed. A second embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support, a plurality of wire supports, and an elastic cover overlaying the wire supports. An inner surface of the cover may be scored. The cap may be hollow or may be filled with a deformable material. A third embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support and an elastic cover in which an inner surface of the cover may be scored. The cap may be hollow or may be filled with a deformable material.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend pg. 2, lines 24-29, as follows:

Although the cap placed on the control stick may be made of a high-friction fuzzy surface (i.e., a surface with a plurality of short fiber adhered to it outer surface), the operator may still be required to exert a relatively large force to keep [the] his/her finger from slipping off the cap. First time users may experience difficulty exerting the correct force to keep their fingers from slipping. Additionally, after extended use of the pointing device, an operator may experience pain and soreness in his/her fingertip.

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